

## Part B

### **LEAD AGENCY/BUREAU AND/OR SUBCOMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP REPORT** **(Agencies with Lead Responsibilities Assigned under the new Circular A-16 in Appendix E - <http://www.fgdc.gov/publications/a16final.html#appendix>) (Please provide a separate report for each activity for which you have the lead)**

1. Program/Activity Name: **(BLM Cadastral Data Subcommittee)**

- Cadastral Survey Program
- Geographic Coordinate Data Base
- FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee
- National Integrated Lands System

2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports?

Cadastral information supports virtually all programs that need information about ownership, rights, interests, authorizations and restrictions for land/water and its resources. Every land/water based decision must consider existing rights and interests according to cadastral based records/data before it can be legally implemented.

Examples include:

- Land and Resource Management Planning
- Energy and Mineral Leasing
- Land Conservation and Wilderness
- National Parks
- NEPA Compliance and Environmental Assessment
- Permitting and Authorizing the Use of Public Lands
- Public and Indian Trust Responsibilities
- Disaster Support Services and Fire Planning/response/rehab
- Land Conveyance and Exchanges
- Rights of Ways

Examples of use by local/community based organizations include:

- 911 and Emergency Response
- Economic Development
- Equitable Taxation
- Realty Transactions and Title Insurance

3. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions?

The use and benefits of cadastral data should not be examined in and of itself. Rather it is recognized that cadastral is a critical component of all land/water based decisions and is essential to be within the laws established for the ownership of real property (real-estate). Because cadastral data is only one of the data themes needed to support the application of spatial data processing technologies, it can not be separated from the whole. Cadastral data is used in and must be considered in every land based decision that is made by the BLM and other land/resource management agencies. Examples of the many uses are given in #2 above.

Having cadastral data available along with other data themes as well as GIS technology allows BLM and other users to more quickly examine a greater number of decision or management alternatives and more accurately measure the impacts of each alternative. Decisions are rendered more understandable and are more defensible because this, reducing the risk of litigation. The BLM's GCDB data is also being used to integrate and standardize the positions used to portray the boundaries of rights and interests. Standardizing on positions is allowing us to minimize geographical conflicts when sharing data about property ownership with other federal, state, county and tribal government organizations.

4. Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update).

Yes, BLM has a plan for the collection/maintenance of its GCDB which provides the geographic component of our data describing rights and interest in land/water and resources.

In addition, BLM has worked in collaboration with states, counties, private industry and other federal agencies to establish a National Strategy for collection, integration and maintenance with different components for the Eastern and Western States. These high level strategies are also supported by State specific FGDC I-Team plans

5. Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node?

Yes B 100% of the cadastral data that has been collected is available via a Clearinghouse node.

6. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards?

The Cadastral Data Content Standard is an approved FGDC standard  
The Cadastral Data Content Standard is in the process for ANSI approval

7. Progress: List FY 2001/2002 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).

- Subcommittee meeting was held in Mesa County Colorado in the spring of 2002, approximately 50 people attended. Meeting notes are posted to web page.
- A joint meeting with Marine Boundary Working Group and the Eastern Cadastral Steering committee in January 2003.
- Four Core data pilot projects were initiated in support of the National Strategy and recommendations from the Western Governors' Association. Montana is completed all others (Colorado, North Carolina, Florida) are about 50% complete.

- Developed and support a land records inventory web site. Approximately 300 counties, 20 cities and 20 states are on the site. Approximately 1000 hits per week. Had over a million townships downloaded in the state of Wyoming alone. NLS B Established a Clearinghouse node (LSI) to disseminate GCDB data. The site supports a data format in compliance with Open GIS Standards.
- Monthly conference calls with related groups including Eastern States Cadastral Steering Committee and Western States Cadastral Steering Committee.
- Held bi-weekly conferences for Core Data Projects.
- Updated the Cadastral Content Standard based on maintenance comments. This version has been published and is the basis for the ANSI standards development process.
- Met with transportation groups regarding right of way requirements.
- Launched GeoCommunicator.
- Coordinated with the private sector on requirements, data models and implementation including tools that support the standard.
- Since providing data over the Internet millions of townships of data have been downloaded from BLM sites (over one million in Wyoming alone).
- The collection and maintenance of GCDB cadastral information has been closely coordinated with the BLM Oil and Gas (fluid minerals) program to provide base coordinate data in support of the Energy Policy Conservation Act (EPCA).

8. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access?

Yes, BLM has a policy in place for full and open access and data sharing.

Yes, we are fulfilling this policy.

9. Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

- The ISO version of the FGDC Geospatial Metadata Content Standard needs to be adopted so that full metadata compliance can be achieved.
- An administrative boundaries data content standard needs to be adopted so it can be integrated with cadastral standards.
- The spatial component of BLM's cadastral program (GCDB) has been proposed for elimination in FY 2004. The lack of a permanent funding base

presents risk to future data collection, integration, maintenance, NSDI, Geospatial One Stop and standards implementation.

- A major risk/concern is the lack of incentives for those who already have cadastral data to implement the Cadastral Data Content Standard or positional standardization with other organizations.